

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /063 W

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R 081652Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3884

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 8296

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VE, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT PEREZ'S INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ'S INDEPENDENCE DAY (JULY 5) ADDRESS TO THE CONGRESS, GOV LEADERS, AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS CONCENTRATED ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS AND REVIEWED THE NATIONALIZATION OF

THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY SIX MONTHS AFTER THE FACT. IN AN ALLUSION TO THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL PEREZ SAID: QUOTE ON THIS SOLEMN DAY I WANT TO MARK VENEZUELA'S FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES. THE CREATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN NATIONAL COINCIDES WITH THE PERIOD OF VENEZUELAN INTEGRATION. IN THIS HISTORIC PARALLEL LIES A FUNDAMENTAL COINCIDENCE OF DEMOCRATIC MISSION WHICH ALSO DEFINED VENEZUELA FROM ITS BIRTH AS A FREE AND SOVEREIGN NATION DESPITE UPHEAVAL WHICH AT TIMES HAS DETOURED US FROM OUR AUTHENTIC AND INEVITABLE DESTINY UNQUOTE.

2. PEREZ REITERATED HIS STATEMENT OF JUNE 22 (CARACAS 7086) CONCERNING THE PANAMA CANAL. AFTER NOTING THAT THE U.S. IS COMMITTED TO DEFENDING THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY, PEREZ ADDED, "AS WE SAID DURING THE CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE AMPHICTYONIC CONGRESS OF

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PANAMA, LATIN AMERICA EXPECTS--IN AN ACT OF NOBLE HISTORIC

CONSEQUENCE WORTHY OF THAT NATION--A NEW TREATY THAT
WILL RETURN TO PANAMA FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL ZONE."

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION, LEREZ SAID
THAT "THE DESTINY OF VENEZUELA IS INDISSOLUBLY LINKED WITH THAT
OF ALL LATIN AMERICA." NOTING PROBLEMS FACED BY THE ANDEAN
PACT AND LAFTA, PEREZ STATED THAT "THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC
SYSTEM (SELA) IS EMERGING AS THE NEW INSTRUMENT OF INTEGRATION
OFFERING THE BROADEST PROSPECTS FOR MAKING CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS
AND ENCOURAGING THE INSTITUTIONAL EFFORTS OF THE ANDEAN PACT
AND LAFTA."

4. CONCERNING DOMESTIC POLICY, PEREZ STATED THAT NO DANGER
THREATENS CONTINUED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PEACE AND LIBERTY.
"VENEZUELA HAS NOT MADE AN ADVENTURE OF PETROLEUM," PEREZ SAID
IN REPORTING ON NATIONALIZATION OF THE OIL INDUSTRY CARRIED OUT
ON JANUARY 1. PEREZ WENT ON TO SAY: QUOTE THE EXPECTATIONS
AROUSSED BY THE NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM HAVE BEEN

SATISFACTORILY AND HAPPILY MET--THIS I REPEAT TO ALL VENEZUELAN.
THOSE WHO FEARED THE UNFORSEEABLE RISKS WE ASSUMED AND THOSE
WHO HAD DOUBTS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S SINCERITY AND DETERMINATION
TODAY HAVE NO VALID REASON FOR HARBORING FEELINGS OF MISTRUST
OR CONCERN. UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: IMPACT OF PEREZ'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE PANAMA CANAL
ZONE WAS BALANCED SOMEWHAT BY HIS REFERENCES TO THE U.S.
BICENTENNIAL. ALTHOUGH HIS MESSAGE ON THE CANAL WAS THE SAME
AS THE ONE HE PRESENTED LAST MONTH, THE FACT THAT HE AND HIS
GOVERNMENT HAD JUST CONGRATULATED US EFFUSIVELY ON OUR
BICENTENNIAL (SEE SEPTEL) DID NOT MAKE JULY 5 AN OCCASION FOR
STRIDENT ATTACKS ON THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE. HIS COMMENTS ON
THE NATIONALIZATION OFFICE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY WERE STANDARD
FARE, AND REFLECTED GOV POSITION THAT THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN

RESOLVED ONCE AND FOR ALL TO THE BENEFIT OF VENEZUELA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA08296
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760264-0391
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760781/aaaacsrc.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT PEREZ'S INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, VE, US, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006